

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

PATENT APPLICATION

For

A SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR OBJECT BASED
DELIVERY OF ON-LINE COURSES AND CONTENT

By

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**A SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR OBJECT BASED
DELIVERY OF ON-LINE COURSES AND CONTENT**

Field Of The Invention

This invention relates to a system and method for
5 object based delivery of on-line courses and content. The
system and method can be used to facilitate creation and use of
instructional and educational content from any one of, or a
combination of, various files.

Background

10 There are a number of ways currently in use for
delivering courses and content. For example, content can be
distributed as desktop software with updates distributed as new
versions of the software. Content is also accessible on the
internet, which can be updated as part of a website update.
15 Content delivered in these ways is not easily reused.

With respect to current instructional and education
content, a significant disadvantage is that due to the way in
which the course is delivered, material cannot be reused when
one part of the program becomes outdated. While there are
20 separate and distinct courses available, those courses cannot be
broken down into re-useable information units. This is
problematic in that an update to a portion of the course may
require that the entire course be revamped. Similarly, content

originally presented as parts of separate courses cannot be easily integrated and may require creation of wholly new course.

In addition, in some cases the author of content does not have the ability to create the content for on-line use. The author may have to describe the desired content to a programmer who then creates the on-line content. This takes development control away from the source where the information originates and can delay the creation of the content. For example, an author may have to contact a programmer to have minor edits or style-type inaccuracies corrected. This slows down the turnaround time for the delivery of new content and can lead to errors.

Summary

The system and method addresses the above-mentioned problems to facilitate delivery of on-line courses and content. The system and method can be used, for example, in the creation and use of instructional and educational content.

Using the system and method, a user can search through content existing on the system and reuse that content in the creation of new courses and content. In addition, using the system and method, new information may be entered as part of a new course or content. Thus, new courses and content may be created by a new combination of already existing content, newly